34. Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants (I) Ltd.
35. Minerals & Metals Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.
36. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.
37. National Aluminium Company Ltd.
38. National Fertilizers Ltd.
39. National Minerals Development Corpn. Ltd.
40. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.
41. Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd.
42. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.
43. State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.
44. Telecommunications Consultants (I) Ltd.
45. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
46. Water & Power Consultancy Services (I) Ltd.

RBI report on industrial growth rate

746. SHRI VTDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that th© Reserve Bank of India has expressed its opinion that the industrial growth rate "would reduce by 2 per cent during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. (KURIEN): (a) and (b) The (Annual Report of the Reserve Bank of India for the year ended lune, 1991 has stated that in the industrial sector there -would necessarily be some slow-down in the growth rate during 1991-92. General import compression, credit restriant both with stepped-up cost and reduced availa-bility and reduction in the public expenditure and investment programme could all result in some slowdown to industrial growth. While such industries like food processing and other agro-based segments, which have a large weightage in the index of industrial production, may not be affected by import compreaion, some of the manufacturing industries like fertilisers, electronics and computers, mini-steel plants and plastic goods, which have a relatively high import content, would face subdued growth during 1991-92. Also, a large number of industries which are dependent on demand front public sector would also show same decline. Overall, it is expected that the industrial sector as a whole may achieve a growth rate of about per cent during 1991-92 against 8.4 percent during 1990-91.

Development of Khadi Indsutry

747. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the schemes formulated for the development of Khadi industry;

(to) what are the types of charkhas or spinning wheels introduced for promotion of spinning industry in the domestic sector and what kind of assistance is made available to the spinners for adoption of the available spinning wheels; and

(c) whether there is a proposal with Khadi and Village Industries Commission to introduce domestic spinning units with 24 to 48 spindles to reduce unemployment in the rural parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) KVIC has formulated various patterns of assistance for

development of Khadi industry. Khadi loans are provided interest-free by KVIC and at four per cent by banks under interest subsidy scheme of KVIC. The patterns include capital expenditure pro-viskn for workshed and equipments and working capital provision covering all aspects right from purchase of raw material to selling of finished products. KVIC extends liberalised pattern of assistance applicable to hill border/tribal and weaker section to institutions having hundred percent SC/ST and |or those institutions exclusively working for SC/STs. In respect of all-women organisations also certain promotional grants are provided. KVTC also provides grants for marketing, publicity, exhibition etc. of khadi products.

(b) KVIC has introduced several types of improved charkhas in the field. The charkhas currently being supplied are 6-sp'ndle high speed new model metal ciharkka, 12-spindle Charkha, lO^spindle coarse spinning Charkha and pot Charkha for coarse count spinning. These equipments are meant for cotton spinning. In respect of woollen khadi, 4-spindle worsted type New Model Charkhas are being introduced besides Bageshwari charkhas. In respect of silk khadi, improved reeling basins are being introduced. KVIC is also assigning spinners using avaflaMe traditional charkhas by en-couraging their production. Since Khadi is an institutional programme, the total •assistance flows to the umbrella institutions, which render all escort services to the spinning and weaving artisans.

(c) Yes Sir. KVIC is considering to introduce Power-operated 24 to 48 spindle charkhas under Lok Vastra Scheme for which experiments to assess the economic viability and technical feasibility have been taken up.

Minimum wages for handloom weavers

. 748. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that minimum wages have not been fixed under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act for handloom weavers engaged in production of Kliadi-clolh with hard spun yarn;

(to) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

' (q) what steps are proposed to the taken to fix minimum wages to handloom weavers employed in the production of (Khadi under the Khadi Commission on its certified centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c) Khadi and Village Industries Commission has prescribed a system of wages on piece rate basis (Productivity linked) for adoption 'by Khadi institutions and Departmental units producing khadi. The artisans including wavers employed in khadi activities are essentially self-employed. The earnings however differ from activity to activity depending upon quantum of output, nautre and quality of work, hour? of work, nature of technology input etc. The rates of wages are strictly according to the prescribed Cost Chart. This cost chart is reviewed from time to time and the remunerations given to the artisans revised as and when necessary to pay suitable remunerations to them consistent with the economic viabilty of the" product and its saleability.

Setting up of automobile project by Ford Motors of U.S.A.

749. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Ford Motors of USA have been exploring the possibility of setting up an automobile project in the country either with Government or private collaboration;

(b) if so, whether any negotiations have been made in this regard;' and

(c) if so, what is the present position in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c) The only proposal which was received and cleared